



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 6, 1991

Mr. J. L. Phinney
Venus City Attorney
Box 380
Venus, Texas 76084

OR91-556

Dear Mr. Phinney:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, article 6252-17a, V.T.C.S. Your request was assigned ID# 14055.

The Venus Municipal Court received an open records request for access to copies of moving traffic citations filed in that court. You inquire whether the Open Records Act requires the release of these records while the cases are still pending.

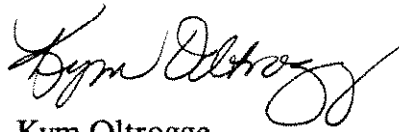
Section 2(1) of the Open Records Act defines the entities that constitute "[g]overnmental bod[ies]" under the act. Subsection 2(1)(G) provides that "the Judiciary is not included within this definition." Consequently, records of the judiciary do not fall within the ambit of the Open Records Act. *See, e.g.,* Open Records Decision Nos. 274 (1981); 25 (1974) (records of judiciary not subject to the Open Records Act, but are subject to common law and statutory rights of inspection) (copies enclosed).

Although the requested records may be subject to statutory rights of inspection, *see* Gov't Code § 29.010; Local Gov't Code § 191.006, we conclude that the requested records are not subject to the Open Records Act. Because the authority of this office to render open records decisions is limited to determinations as to whether requested information held by "[g]overnmental bod[ies]" falls within the section 3(a) exceptions from disclosure, we are not authorized by the act to instruct

the court as to the rights of access to its records. Consequently, we cannot further assist you in this matter.

Because case law and prior published open records decisions resolve your request, we are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. If you have questions about this ruling, please refer to OR91-556.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kym Oltrogge", written in a cursive style.

Kym Oltrogge
Assistant Attorney General
Opinion Committee

KO/RWP/lcd

Ref.: ID# 14055

Enclosures: Open Records Decision Nos. 274, 25

cc: John M. Hill
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Dallas, Texas 75205